



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

NOTES FROM THE MEDICAL PRESS

IN CHARGE OF

ELISABETH ROBINSON SCOVIL

STERILIZING CATGUT SUTURES.—*Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics*, commenting on the sterilization of catgut sutures reports some experiments. Strands of catgut, in the sizes commonly used by surgeons, were heavily infected with three different species of sporulating bacilli, thus producing a more severe infection of the sutures than would occur under ordinary circumstances. The sutures were placed in tubes filled with toluol and subjected to a temperature of 165 degrees C. for five hours, after the tubes had been sealed. None of the sutures showed the presence of any living organism upon being tested.

POST-OPERATIVE ANALGESIA.—*The Journal of the American Medical Association* in a report of a meeting says post-operative analgesia means a painless convalescence for surgical patients. Four factors are scopolamin, morphine, anesthesia; large enemas, four or five quarts, given half an hour after operation and retained; frequent minute doses of scopolamin—morphine at regular intervals after operation, continued for 24 or 36 hours; the use of sharp instruments, avoiding blunt dissection; sponging gently and infrequently; a comfortable position for the patient, with relaxation or support as needed for the traumatized part of the body.

PROPHYLAXIS OF INFLUENZA.—Persons who have had this disease are advised to look out for bad tonsils, or any other infection, for that is a weak spot. Vaccine properly given is considered a wise protective measure. People should avoid public assemblies, keep themselves in good general health and avoid exposure. Rest in bed, not too much fresh air, and a building up treatment are recommended.

ULTRA-VIOLET RAYS AND VITAMINS.—*The Journal of the American Medical Association* says there is no doubt these invisible light rays have more action on protoplasm than the visible light does. Sunburn illustrates what ultra-violet rays can do. Diphtheria toxin is readily destroyed by them, though it is more difficult to render the antitoxin inert. Butter exposed for eight hours to these rays undergoes a very noticeable change, the fat soluble vitamin becoming inactive. The sterilization of milk by this means gives it a peculiar taste and may impair its nutritive value as an infant food.

CARE OF THE EYES.—A writer in *Public Health* says the adjustment of the frames of glasses is as important as the correct strength

of the lenses. Properly prescribed glasses may fail to remove eye strain because of faulty adjustment of the frames.

CONSTIPATION AND CATHARTICS.—In an article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* it is said that the day for routine purgation is passed. Its use before operations, during the puerperium, in dropsy and uremia is deprecated. Sufferers from a weak or diseased intestine, or a weak constitution, who need habitual catharsis—just as a person with weak ciliary muscles needs eyeglasses—should have a cathartic prescribed for them with as much care to fit them properly as in the case of eyeglasses. An habitual pill need not be given daily. A movement every second day is usually sufficient.

THE HOSPITAL AND THE COMMUNITY.—One of the trustees of the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, in writing on the duties of the hospital trustee says charity is a gift in trust for promoting the welfare of the community. It would be uncharitable to deny either rich or poor the benefit of hospital treatment. There should be a building for people of means with their accustomed luxuries, a less luxurious and expensive one for those of moderate means, and a third building for the poor. All should receive equally skilled medical and surgical care. He also states that hundreds of would-be patients who are suffering untreated because they cannot afford the cost, must be treated in a hospital, paying moderate fees to their medical advisers.

WEANING.—The *Pennsylvania Medical Journal* recommends beginning weaning with a cow's milk mixture considerably weaker than would be given to a healthy baby of the same age. Half the strength would be a wise formula; if this is well borne, it can be gradually increased. Avoid weaning during hot weather. If possible wean slowly, beginning with one bottle feeding a day. In four days, a second bottle can be given, the breast feeding being gradually discontinued. In any case if the mother's milk is insufficient, cow's milk should be given in addition. At nine months, a baby may be given a bottle feeding once a day to train it to digest cow's milk, even if it is thriving on breast milk.

MARKING VARICOSE VEINS FOR OPERATION.—*Surgery, Gynecology and Obstetrics* suggests brilliant green or aniline dye in an aqueous solution for this purpose. The veins should be marked out the day before the operation and allowed to dry before the clothing touches the skin. At the time of the operation they can be painted with iodine, as the green intensifies almost all colors. The stain requires some weeks to wear off.